



## City of Somerville, Massachusetts

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CITY OF SOMERVILLE RESPONDS TO PARKING SOLUTIONS TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

*Mayor Curtatone Emphasizes Working with Residents and Businesses,  
Creating Agreeable Solutions for New Regulations*

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Acting Director of Traffic and Parking (T&P) Bob Bradley today released a letter in response to recommendations issued by the Parking Solutions Task Force (PSTF). Mayor Curtatone convened the PSTF – comprised of members of the Board of Aldermen, business and artist representatives, residents, and municipal staff - in 2009 following several changes to the City's parking regulations. Bradley's letter comes in response to the formal PSTF recommendations that were submitted to the Mayor in January 2010.

"The PSTF has been advising the City on its parking rules and regulations, as we seek innovative ways to best meet the growing parking demands of our residents, businesses and visitors to the City of Somerville," said Mayor Curtatone. "Parking is a very scarce resource in our City, and I value input from community stakeholders on this complex topic, particularly as we work to achieve our common goal of maintaining maximum parking availability for as many residents and visitors as possible."

In January 2010, the PSTF submitted a formal letter, including 12 specific recommendations, to Mayor Curtatone outlining policy and customer service improvements. In March, Acting Director Bradley responded to each specific PSTF recommendation, identifying both short- and long-term solutions, including:

- Updating the City's Business Permit Parking program, including improved online information and a third-shift business parking permit;
- Creating an Artist Permit Parking program;
- Implementation of additional permits for non-resident property owners (landlord permits);
- Extending the time limit for extended visitor permit parking; and

- Improving and centralizing office correspondence and investigating the potential to expand online permitting capabilities.

The full text of both letters can be found on the City's website, [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov).

"Mayor Curtatone convened the PSTF to seek resident, business owner and other important stakeholder input to create a thorough dialogue and discussion of our parking policies. As a result, the PSTF made thoughtful and constructive recommendations, many of which had already been or were subsequently enacted, at the Mayor's direction," said Bradley. "This Administration will continue to work with residents and businesses to find the best solutions possible for our city and its community members in terms of fair and equitable parking policies."

The City of Somerville is also collaborating with a national transportation consulting firm, Nelson Nygaard, to study "demand-based pricing" for parking meters in business districts. Demand-based pricing is an innovative method of parking policy which can be used to determine the optimal placement for parking meters, their hourly rates and times of operation, as well as other parking-related strategies. Funded by the Institute for Transportation and Policy, the study will focus on many of the City's business districts, beginning this spring.

"Though our existing policies and procedures are in place for the safety and convenience of our residents, the addition of the Green Line and other transit projects in the area will bring many necessary parking changes to Somerville, and we want to be prepared to address them in the most appropriate manner," said Mayor Curtatone. "We will continue to work with the PSTF and other key community stakeholders to address parking concerns for the foreseeable future."

For more information on the PSTF or the City's parking policies, visit [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov).

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